

Wetland and Coastal Restoration and Conservation

Breakout Report Out Presentation

July 19, 2006

Previous Efforts

- Initial meeting in Biloxi organized by Gulf of Mexico Foundation
- State leads conference call to discuss moving forward with actions
- We are planning for workshops as directed by the action items

**Progress during
breakout groups**

R-1: A.1: Regional Restoration Coordination Team

FIRST PRIORITY:

Louisiana committed to formalizing Regional
Restoration Coordination Team

→ by September 1, 2006

1. Leadership
2. Structure
3. Members
4. Mission

R-1: A.2: Series of Workshops

Series of four state-led workshops to be held around Gulf of Mexico. One to be held in each state.

- Louisiana has committed to hosting the first workshop in October 2006.
- FL, TX/MX, and MS/AL to follow during next 12-15 months
- There may be an opportunity to include/combine with the Habitat ID group as part of their user needs workshops

R-1: A.4 and A.5: Resolving regulatory and permitting issues

- Team conference call planned to discuss moving forward
- Team will provide input to Louisiana on the range and nature of the issues involved (e.g. Essential Fish Habitat, etc.)
- Louisiana will compile list of issues
- This list of issues will become part of the overall discussion during workshop series as mentioned in item R-1:A.2

R1:A6: Issues with Granting Agencies

1. Team will also provide input to Louisiana on the range and nature of the issues involved (e.g., timing of grant cycles, reporting requirements)
2. Team will compile list of funding sources
[LEAD not yet identified]

R-1: A.8: Regional Sediment Master Plan

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has committed to this project
- Larry Parsons from the Corps will be soliciting state input in the near future

Next Steps

- Restoration group will continue discussions during conference call in the first week of August
 - especially with regard to comments on the Implementation Activities Matrix to further advise on priorities for federal funding
 - EPA Gulf of Mexico Program has offered to facilitate this call
- The education and outreach folks presented some very good ideas and we are going to vet them with the rest of the team and get back to Lee Yokel as soon as possible
- We will work with the PHINS team so that their efforts can inform ours and vice versa

Issues

- Team would like explanation of review and funding process for EPA RFP
- Team expressed interest in providing input into review process